

It's Time for Civic Engagement

By Sally Jamison

As the oldest publicly-funded statewide service program in the nation, the Washington Service Corps (WSC) actively works to stay on the forefront of new national service program initiatives. WSC continues to evaluate program focus and develop original approaches to addressing critical needs in Washington State communities. In the shadow of September 11th, President George W. Bush and National Service Leaders addressed the critical need for people, especially youth, to become aware of community needs and get involved in the solution process. In the President's State of the Union address at the end of last January, he called upon all citizens to act on their interests and engage their energy and enthusiasm to provide service to others. By getting involved and serving the community, the state, and the country, President Bush believes the fabric of the nation will be strengthened. Leslie Lenkowsky, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), supported the President's call in his remarks at the National Service-Learning Conference in Seattle last March, by stating, "President Bush's call to service - and his focus on education - are not unrelated. Rather both are avenues to create a new culture of responsibility and civic connectedness in this nation."

The Washington Service Corps joined this renewed national movement of becoming aware and getting involved. In response to the call of the President and the aims of national service leaders, WSC developed a partnership with Service-Learning Northwest

(SLNW), and also initiated the creation of a civic engagement workbook for WSC Individual Placement (IP) members. The relationship with SLNW was established last spring with the intention of designing a program for WSC team-based projects that would maximize the efforts of AmeriCorps members. Washington Service Corps and SLNW wanted to enable both

ESD Commissioner Mundy visits WSC site at Tonasket School District



(L-R) Deputy Commissioner Paul Trause, Commissioner Sylvia Mundy, WSC Director Nancy Pringle, Project Supervisor Mandy Edwards, and Assistant Commissioner Gary Gallwas.

The Employment Security Department (ESD) Commissioner's Fall Tour 2002 made a stop in Tonasket in October. Commissioner Mundy and Deputy Commissioner Trause were joined by E&T Division's Gary Gallwas for a visit at North Okanogan's AmeriCorps site at the Tonasket School District. Superintendent Randall Hauff, Washington Service Corps Director Nancy Pringle, Program Manager Scott Carlson, and Project Supervisor Mandy Edwards welcomed the tour by offering an overview to the many benefits of the AmeriCorps partnership between ESD and the local school district.

During the visit, the partnership's eCorps computer training and after-school tutoring program were showcased, giving the group a chance to see our AmeriCorps members in action. "Our district is the largest geographically in the state with almost 70 percent of our students coming from low-income families. We really appreciate the help AmeriCorps provides to the community," said Superintendent Hauff.

Newsletter Editor:
Adrienne Wiley-Thomas

Newsletter
Contributors:

Scott Carlson
Willette Cheatom
Eric Ferguson
Geneva Hines
Sally Jamison
Elidh Lowery
Nancy Pringle
Don Wise

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Director's Corner



Hello to members, supervisors and other friends of the Washington Service Corps. As I write this column, we continue to enjoy one of the most beautiful Washington fall seasons I remember. Day after clear, crisp day, brilliant sunshine showcases the kaleidoscope of warm colored leaves. I try not to worry that those spectacular days are the result of global warming. Save that worry for rainy days. Hope you're finding time to enjoy your world as well.

A recent part of my enjoyment was a visit with a Washington Service Corps (WSC) AmeriCorps team who has taken advantage of the weather. South Whidbey School District's eleven-member team just completed their annual Huckleberry Festival with 800 kids and 30 teachers. This two-week event included an overall environmental education theme with lots of fun learning activities.



Here's how it worked:

A series of stations were set up around the school grounds. The first station was Huckleberry Hike. While hiking on forest trails found behind the school, AmeriCorps members taught age-appropriate environmental education lessons. Lessons focused on identification of the huckleberry plant and its habitat with an emphasis on using all of their senses. Somewhere along the hike, the students ran into a character that tells them a story. Before leaving the woods, students were allowed to pick huckleberries from plants along the trail.

The next station was a game of Huckle, Huckle, Berry. It's played much like Duck, Duck, Goose, except that if someone gets caught and put into the middle of the circle, they're sizzled into huckleberry jam!

After the game, kids sing and dance at the Huckleberry Hoe-down:

*Huckleberry, Huckleberry, Huckleberry Jam
Huckleberry, Huckleberry, Huckleberry Jam
Left foot in, left foot out
Shake those huckleberries out
So you can eat them like a bear (roar!)
Huckleberry, Huckleberry, Huckleberry Jam
Huckleberry, Huckleberry, Huckleberry Jam
In the fall, they stand tall,
Good to eat, a tasty treat.
If you're not careful, I'll eat them all!*

Next, AmeriCorps members made a tasty treat of the huckleberries kids picked on the hike—huckleberry pancakes!

The final station was a reflection on the day through artwork. Students recalled

things that they learned and saw while hiking. After everyone had a chance to share, paint smocks were distributed and the class created a mural of their experience using purple paint.

When time was left over, students played another game called Huckleberry Tag. In this game, one child was chosen to be a bear and the other were huckleberries (the bear had to roar and the huckleberries held one arm up in the air to be their stem). As the "bear" tagged the "huckleberries," they turned into "bears" and the game continued until everyone was a bear.

What a great service learning project with all eleven members showcasing their creativity with the kids, teachers and community. Good press coverage as well. Thanks to Will Black and his team. Thanks also to AmeriCorps member, Natalie Schillo, who provided the description for this project.

The level of creativity experienced at Huckleberry Festival reminds me how often, during field visits, I see such high enthusiasm and energy bringing projects alive. WSC projects have a lot to be proud of!

Have a rewarding and creative year,

Nancy Pringle, Director

Heavey Returns to the WSC

WSC staffer Tom Heavey has returned to the program after serving 11 months on military leave. Called to active duty under Presidential order to support Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, Heavey provided important homeland security support in the Puget Sound area. As a result of his diligent efforts, Heavey earned a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Welcome to the WSC!

The Washington Service Corps would like to welcome the new staff members of our project partners: Kurtis Johnson, Yakima County Substance Abuse Coalition (YCSAC) Youth Serving Youth supervisor, Ted Marichalar, YCSAC eCorps supervisor, Sally Jamison, AmeriCorps Leader, Eric Ferguson, AmeriCorps Leader, Jerrine Regester, Intergenerational Innovations supervisor, Jason Martinelli, Washington Reading Corps Key Area Coordinator at Community Youth Services, Simone Jones, Washington Reading Corps Key Area Coordinator at Fremont Public Association, Jennifer Nighbor Washington Reading Corps Key Area Coordinator at Regional Youth Service Corps, and Jennifer Newman, Program Assistant at the Fremont Public Association.

Good-bye, Corrie.

Best of luck to Corrie Ward, Program Assistant at Community Youth Services who recently left to pursue new professional endeavors.

WSC Members 'Make a Difference' Statewide

Joining the national movement to celebrate on this day of helping others for the annual Make a Difference Day celebration, Washington Service Corps members were involved in a diverse culmination of service projects in the communities strengthened by WSC projects.

In central Washington, the Yakima County Substance Abuse Coalition Washington Reading Corps (WRC) team collaborated with Volunteer Chore Services to provide assistance to seniors in their community. The members worked in groups of two or three to do yard work and painting for various individuals.

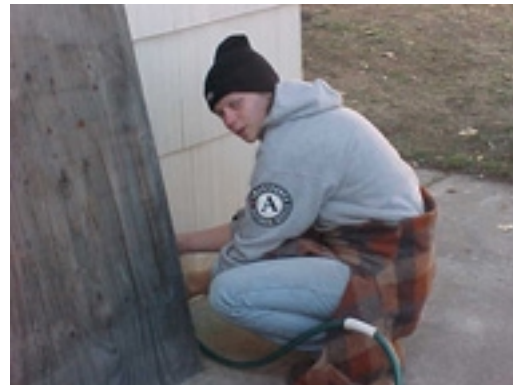
At one site, when the members arrived to paint a ramp for a senior in a wheelchair, they found that not only did she want the ramp painted, she wanted the entire deck painted. Due to time constraints and not having enough members at that location, the group decided to continue their commitment and return the following Saturday to complete the

project for the elderly woman.

Elsewhere in Eastern Washington, members with Ferry County AmeriCorps collaborated with Tonasket School District AmeriCorps to spend the day pitching in on a few projects including the construction of flower beds at a local nursing home, winterizing a home, cleaning up the camp sites around Curlew, and making cards at the li-

brary with youth.

In Olympia, members with the Community Youth Services WRC team were involved in numerous service activities. Among their accomplishments, nine AmeriCorps Members from Wishkah, Lincoln, Oakville, and McCleary Elementary schools served the Oakville community by refurbishing the "Welcome to



Oakville" sign and the area surrounding it by repainting the sign, weeding and planting flower beds, planting trees and shrubs.

In Tacoma, AmeriCorps Members placed at Southgate, Chief Leschi, Firgrove, and Eatonville Elementary schools spent the day serving at the Tacoma Rescue Mission's family shelter. Meeting the needs of the service site, five members organized the collection of clothing, shoes, toys, and housewares that is made available to the community. Twenty-four bags and twelve boxes of items were sorted and arranged to be accessible to the service recipients of the shelter.

In addition, members also helped to prepare and serve lunch to the shelter's clients. In the afternoon members helped

to organize the youth services area so that educational resources would be available for children. Those involved created tutoring packets of educational and holiday activities and organized art sup-

plies and books.

Up the road, seven AmeriCorps Members from Evergreen, Hillside, and Carter Lake Elementary schools performed site maintenance at the Fort Lewis Animal Shelter where they painted exterior walls, trimmed existing plants, and planted approximately 30 new flowers and bushes.

Other activities included a harvesting of potatoes at a local community farm near Tenino where members were able to collect nearly 1,000 pounds of potatoes, which they then delivered to the Bread and Roses Shelter and food banks in Thurston County, Hoodspport, and Quilcene.

Overall, the commitment to serve our neighbors, and communities made a lasting, and meaningful impact that clearly demonstrates a strengthened ethic of service for those involved.

Resources for Supervisors

President Launches Service Learning Resource Site

President Bush has launched www.studentsinservicetoamerica.org, a web site featuring the Students in Service to America guidebook on service-learning.

Becoming a Better Supervisor: A Resource Guide for Community Service Supervisors

The guide was drawn from three major sources of information: a comprehensive needs assessment; views of AmeriCorps supervisors who participated in Supervisory Skills Workshops; and literature of specialists in the fields of supervision, management, and community participation.

<http://www.etr.org/nsrc/pdfs/BBS/bbs.html>

It's Time for Civic Engagement

Written by Amber Darland and Washington Campus Compact Connections Team, performed at the SERVES Institute in Yakima.

CHORUS 1:

From mountain top to shore
Doin' our service through
AmeriCorps
We can do so much more
Doin' our service through
AmeriCorps

VERSE 1:

Math, reading and writing
Work to stop the fighting
Improving Education
All across the nation

CHORUS 1:

From mountain top to shore
Doin' our service through
AmeriCorps
We can do so much more
Doin' our service through
AmeriCorps

VERSE 2:

We're building communities
Servin' in public safety
Cleanin' up the environment
Even after retirement

CHORUS 2:

From shore to mountain top
Our work will never stop
There's so much more to do
We can count on me and
you...TO...

VERSE 3:

Get out of your basement
It's time for Civic Engagement
'Cause there are lots of
human needs
C'mon let's plant the seeds!!!

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AmeriCorps members and groups of youth to engage in discussion and service-learning exploration of what it means to be an engaged citizen of a democratic nation. From this collaboration, the

Roadmap to Civic Engagement program was created and implemented into WSC projects this fall. In the pilot year, all WSC team-based AmeriCorps members will deliver the *Road Map* to various groups of youth statewide. Nancy Pringle, Director of WSC, believes "everyone deserves to have the opportunity to be involved, and by involving all in this new objective, Washington Service Corps and its partners can provide a greater impact." More than 800 AmeriCorps members and twenty-five sites are part of the WSC civic engagement program. All will be engaged, either by completing activities in the IP workbook, or by delivering the *Roadmap* to local partnering youth organizations.

Where are we now?

Each of the Washington Service Corps project sites are working on fostering local partnerships and establishing site-specific processes for completion of the civic engagement ob-

jective. Several team-based project sites are using the first half of the service year to train and prepare AmeriCorps members, while other sites have already started working with youth. A variety of youth organizations are currently

committed to the civic engagement program as partner agencies, including Camp Fire, elementary and middle schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, and alternative school programs. While WSC teams broaden their community partnerships and engage youth groups, WSC IP members deepen their understanding of citizenship and complete workbook activities that help them learn and develop civic skills that are necessary to

maximize personal effectiveness as community members. The WSC civic engagement program is part of a renewed national service movement and mainly focuses on engaging youth. Both tiers of the WSC civic engagement program, the IP workbook and team-based *Roadmap to Civic Engagement*, are intended to empower members and youth, leading them into action. For WSC projects

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Civic Engagement Project Snapshot

The Lower Valley Opportunities Industrialization Center AmeriCorps project began a partnership with a local Camp Fire group from Sunnyside, Washington. Meeting every Thursday evening, six members present the civic engagement program to a small group of 9-11 year old youth.

At a recent meeting the kids were delighted to play a variety of team-building games and at the end were surprised to realize they had "learned stuff" while having fun!

Although the program can be a challenge to prepare and facilitate at times, the members are truly connecting with the children and growing as engaged community members in the process.



Abby Miller, a Yakima Valley AmeriCorps member engages students in a service learning activity.

Individual Placement Profile: Cari Butterbaugh, St. Andrew Lutheran Church/Kid's Club

Serving as an AmeriCorps member through a partnership with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Cari Butterbaugh coordinates a local



after school program at Orchard's Elementary School. Cari's program has served 230 students who have attended the programs offered at "Kid's Club." Once the bell rings at the end of the school day you can feel the excitement bouncing off the exterior walls as the students line up according to their assigned color group. With both an adult and middle school student volunteer assigned to each group the elementary stu-

dents are rotated through a variety activities planned for the day. At each station, participants are provided an informal time to interact with their peers



through facilitated activities including homework club, arts-based projects, games, as well as physical education.

One activity that engaged the students in a self-reflective project offered them an opportunity to create "Thankful Leaves" that would soon decorate a tree in one classroom at the school.

Vesper Seehafer, a retired school district employee who has been

volunteering at Kid's Club through St. Andrew Lutheran Church for the past three years sees her involvement in the program as a valuable opportunity for her to keep learning new things while also giving back to her community. One meaningful experience Seehafer reflected on was the opportunity she had to be a judge of the *Student Learning Projects* at Covington Middle School. While each student is only required to volunteer for 5 hours to satisfy the ser-



vice requirement, most of the students continue to volunteer past the minimum requirements expected from them.

Building Communities Through Service

WSC members attended the first *SERVES Institute* for the 2002-2003 program year at the Yakima Convention Center. Author and speaker Paul Loeb's keynote address challenged Corps members to find the "Soul of a Citizen" citing stories of ordinary Americans who have found unexpected fulfillment by choosing lives of social commitment.

Continuing in the tradition of service during the conference, over 150 members and staff generously served communities in need through their participation in a blood drive for the American Red Cross.

Collectively, WSC collected 73 units of blood which translates to impacting 219 lives where each pint means someone has another birthday, anniversary, or one more chat with a friend.

Corps Shots



News from the Corporation for National & Community Service

Lenkowsky Addresses Homeland Security Grantees

On October 29, Leslie Lenkowsky, CEO of the Corporation for National Community Service presented a speech at the Homeland Security Forum for the CNCS Homeland Security Grantees meeting. Titled *Service and Homeland Security: Where Are We and Where are we Going?*, Lenkowsky demonstrated “how our communities can become so much stronger, safer, and more effective when all of us act as the eyes and ears of those trained to respond to crisis situations, or to potential crisis situations...volunteering requires more than a simple willingness to help. It also requires careful and creative thought about the ways, and the strengthening of our ability to enable citizens to make this commitment effectively.” Addressing civic engagement in our communities, Lenkowsky reflected “it’s sometimes a struggle to keep in mind that civic engagement is not just a number on a poll or volunteer roster. It’s a challenge and a charge, given to us by those who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to found this nation.”

Tapping Seniors as a Volunteer Resource: Senior Corps Web-based Recruitment System Launched

If your project is interested in strengthening its capacity to deliver quality services in the community, Senior Corps can help! If your organization works with or conducts outreach to individual seniors in the community who are looking for ways to volunteer and contribute, Senior Corps can also work with you to help them find those high-quality volunteer opportunities. Projects can list volunteer opportunities using the web-based recruitment system at: <https://www.joinseniorservice.org/>.

WRC Launches New Family and Community Involvement Program

Fostering an increase in family and community involvement of low-income, migrant and immigrant families is a new priority for members of the Washington Reading Corps (WRC). Washington Service Corps VISTA members serving on the Intermountain AmeriCorps, Fremont Public Association, and Lower Valley OIC WRC teams have implemented a new program to coordinate with local communities to develop and implement plans to increase literacy skills of those living in targeted communities. In the program,

members will be creating take-home backpacks for students which will engage parents and extended families in the learning process. Other goals include establishing community literacy councils and hosting literacy events in the community.

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this year and in years to come, the civic engagement program will be a defining objective. It is expected to be an avenue of discovery and a path for community engagement for all individuals involved.

WSC welcomes two new AmeriCorps Leaders



Prior to his first year of national service in 1995, Eric Ferguson always en-

visioned himself as a teacher. Through his service as an AmeriCorps member with Community Youth Services placed at Marshall Middle School in Olympia, Eric soon learned that the conventional classroom environment was not a career he wanted to explore.

As an AmeriCorps Leader with the Washington Service Corps, Eric is placed with the King County Housing Authority team to support the civic engagement initiative and generate best practices for other WSC teams. As a leader, Eric hopes to make meaningful connections and build relationships with his fellow AmeriCorps members this year. “I hope to gain some demonstrable professional skills that will benefit me down the road,” reflected Eric.

Sally Jamison, an AmeriCorps member with the Spokane School District Washington Reading Corps team last year returns to the Washington Service Corps for a second year of service as a leader. “Being part of WRC last year gave me a deeper sense of community and enabled me to be an active part of my hometown. It was a very fulfilling year of service. My time spent with Pratt Elementary students and educators was filled with friendship, imagination, dancing, laughter, reading and exploring,” reflected Sally.

This year Sally’s main areas of focus will be to coordinate the efforts of the high school senior culminating project by serving as a coach to members assigned to the project. In addition, she will be working on the civic engagement project to ensure that our team-based projects have a successful experience executing this new initiative.

Corps Updates

WSC Introduces Senior Culminating Project

The culminating project is a new graduation requirement that was passed by the State Board of Education in October of 2000. By 2008, graduating high school seniors will need to complete a culminating project in order to receive their high school diploma.

Washington Service Corps recognizes one of the challenges regarding this new requirement will be to engage communities and students in meaningful culminating projects that serve as worthy demonstrations of how academic skills can be used to address community problems.

This fall, Washington Service Corps committed individual placement AmeriCorps members, and South Whidbey School District and Tonasket AmeriCorps team members to a Culminating Project pilot program. In this pilot year, WSC will work with Project Service Leadership (PSL), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS), and a handful of school districts statewide to support the initial development of the culminating project structure. Each school within the pilot program is either developing or has developed its own criteria for successful completion of the culminating project. These schools are incorporating a service-learning component and utilizing a WSC AmeriCorps member to help students connect their talents and interests to the real needs of the community.

A WSC AmeriCorps member placed in the school acts as a "service-learning coach" for students, providing a database of community resources and coaching them through the process of

community involvement. The Culminating Project pilot program is seen as an opportunity to mobilize national service members to create partnerships between the community and schools.

KCHA and Federal Way Teams Serve in Park Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps



On November 1st, the Federal Way School District and King County Housing Authority AmeriCorps teams combined their efforts in a service project at Saltwater State Park. Washington Service Corps teams have a long history of service at Saltwater and have left their mark on a park originally built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Members focused on removing overgrowth and debris around the park entrance. The restored area had not been maintained in 15 years and will now provide benefits to park users as well as law enforcement officers who will be able to maintain safety standards at the park. A special thank you goes out to Tom Heavey-WSC Program Coordinator who came out to get dirty alongside corps members.

Digital Divide Project Introduces New Team in Efforts to Bridge the Digital Divide

In mid September, our newest eCorps team in Ferry County began operations. Based out of Republic with the Ferry County Community Services Program, this new eCorps program is designing



innovative ways to serve the needs of their rural community residents utilizing the benefits of technology including the Internet. Four members serve at local sites including the local Rural Resources office, Curlew Job Corps, the Community Services office and Republic High School. Corps members are strategically placed to offer varied services including computer training classes, Internet access and technology programs for youth and adults.

YCSAC Dedicates New Computer Lab in Yakima

On October 1, 2002 the Yakima County Substance Abuse Coalition (YCSAC) eCorps program dedicated its new computer lab to the residents of Southeast Yakima. This new lab, complete with 15 workstations and high speed Internet access is a valuable resource and will allow their eCorps members to provide stronger computer training programs to community residents. Other services provided include a drop-in open lab for Internet access, tailored instruction opportunities and the option to secure a refurbished computer in some cases. The lab is housed in the Southeast Yakima Community Center and open to all community residents.

One of the things that make this lab unique is that it was constructed primarily with recycled computers refurbished by eCorps members and networked hubs from private sector donors.

Calendar of Events

January 20, 2003

MLK Day of Service.
<http://www.mlkday.org/>

January 27-29, 2003

WRC Key Area Coordinator meeting, Spokane, WA.

February 20-22, 2003

Northwest Leader Corps Follow-up Training, Fort Worden, WA.

March 18-20, 2003

SERVES Institute, Ocean Shores, WA.

May 12-13, 2003

Eighth Annual Northwest National Service Symposium, Portland State University, Portland, OR. For more info:
<http://www.nwrel.org/ecc/ameriCorps/symposiums/>

May 27-30, 2003

Supervisor's T/TA meeting, Blaine, WA.



WSC Staff

Nancy Pringle, *Director*
Debbie Schuffenhauer, *Deputy Director*
Roxanne Wittenberg, *Financial Director*

Terri Barbee
Scott Carlson
Tom Heavey
Terri Jack
Sandie Peterson
Harold Phillips
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Tami Wallace

Adrienne Wiley-Thomas
Sarah C. Wilson
Don Wise

Sally Jamison, *AmeriCorps Leader*
Eric Furguson, *AmeriCorps Leader*

The WSC was created by the Washington State Legislature in 1983 to provide young adults (18-25 years old) with opportunities to serve their communities. The WSC assists private nonprofit organizations and units of local government in addressing unmet community needs and providing young adults with meaningful service experiences.

Since 1994, the WSC has been a key player in the national service movement that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in full or part-time service that Gets Things Done in communities across the nation. AmeriCorps members perform service that has a direct and demonstrable impact in four critical issue areas: education, environment, human services and public safety.

Visit us on-line at:
www.wa.gov/esd/wsc
Toll Free: 1-888-713-6080



Washington Service Corps
PO Box 9046
Olympia, WA 98507-9046

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